OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Implementation of the DoD Joint Technical Architecture

Effective military operations require the ability to respond with a mix of forces, anywhere in the world, on a moment's notice. Interoperability is essential for these joint operations. Information must flow seamlessly and quickly among DoD's sensors, processing and command centers, and shooters, to enable dominant battlefield awareness and operations inside the enemy's decision loop.

The DoD Joint Technical Architecture (JTA) is a key piece of DoD's overall strategy to achieve this capability. Its open, standards-based approach also offers significant opportunities for reducing cost and cutting development and fielding time through enhancing software portability, use of COTS, ease of systems upgrade and hardware independence. The JTA is the result of collaboration among the Services, Joint Staff, USD(A&T), ASD(C3I), DISA, DIA, and other elements of the Intelligence Community.

The JTA specifies a set of performance-based, primarily commercial, information processing, transfer, content, format and security standards. These standards specify the logical interfaces in command, control and intelligence systems and the communications and computers (C4I) that directly support them. The JTA is a practical document, identifying standards where products are available today. It is entirely consistent with and supportive of DoD's Specification and Standards Reform.

Effective immediately, the JTA (Version 1.0) is mandatory for all emerging systems and systems upgrades. The JTA applies to all C4I systems and the interfaces of other key assets (e.g., weapons systems, sensors, office automations systems, etc.) with C4I systems. The JTA also applies to C4I Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations and other activities that lead directly to the fielding of operational C4I capabilities.

The Services, Agencies and other Components are responsible for the implementation of the JTA (including enforcement, budgeting and determining the pace of systems upgrades). All emerging C4I systems and C4I systems upgrades are to comply with the JTA. Existing C4I systems are to migrate to the applicable JTA standards, while considering cost, schedule and performance impacts. Waivers may be granted only by Service, Agency and other Component Acquisition Executives, with the concurrence of the ASD(C3I) and the USD(A&T). In this context, non-response after two weeks from the date of receipt by OSD constitutes concurrence. Each Service, DoD Agency, and applicable other Component is requested to provide a plan outlining its approach to implementing the JTA to ASD(C3I) and USD(A&T) within 90 days.

The JTA is a living document that will evolve as technology and the marketplace change. Within 90 days, the USD(A&T) and ASD(C3I), with the support of the Services and Agencies, will develop a proposal for updating, maintaining, and configuration managing the JTA. It is our intention to expand the scope of the JTA to encompass all systems with which the C4I systems will directly interact. Implementation experiences will be fed back into the JTA to ensure that it is the best technical guidance for our developers. The goal of the JTA is interoperability and effectiveness in a joint and ultimately a coalition environment; tests and exercises will be used to evaluate progress.

For applicable systems, the JTA replaces the standards guidance in the Technical Architecture Framework for Information Management (TAFIM) currently cited in DoD Regulation 5000.2-R.

Request Director, Joint Staff forward this memorandum to the Unified Combatant Commands.

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Paul G. Kaminski
Under Secretary of Defense
(Acquisition and Technology)

Emmett Paige, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence)